

Appl. No. 10/042,875
Amdt. dated April 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

9. (Previously Presented) An absorbent web having a dry feel when wet comprising:
- a) an inherently hydrophilic basesheet comprising papermaking fibers and having an upper surface and a lower surface, said upper surface having elevated and depressed regions further characterized by a Wet Compressed Bulk of about 5 or greater; and
 - b) hydrophobic matter deposited preferentially on the elevated regions of the upper surface of said basesheet and on a portion of the lower surface of said basesheet.
16. (Original) An absorbent dual-zoned web providing a dry feel in use, said web having an upper surface comprising a plurality of hydrophobically treated regions surrounded by inherently hydrophilic cellulosic regions, wherein upon wetting said web expands such that the hydrophobically treated regions are preferentially elevated relative to said hydrophilic regions.
17. (Cancelled)
40. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web is a wet-laid tissue sheet.
41. (Cancelled)
42. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claim 9 further characterized by a Wet Springback Ratio of about 0.7 or greater.

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43. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein the hydrophobic matter is discontinuous.

44. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 further characterized by a Rewet value of about 0.65 g or less and a Normalized Rewet value of about 0.6 or less.

45. (Currently Amended) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said web has an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.2 mm or greater, an In-Plane Permeability of at least $0.5 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2$, and a Wet Compressed Bulk of about 5 cc/g or greater.

46. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said hydrophobic matter comprises synthetic fibers fixedly attached to the upper surface of said basesheet such that about 50% or less of the surface area of the basesheet is covered with the synthetic fibers.

47. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claim 9 further comprising hydrophobic matter on a portion of the lower surface of said basesheet.

48. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web has an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.2 mm or less while dry and an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.3 mm or greater when wetted to a moisture content of 100%.

49. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web has a wet:dry tensile ratio of at least 0.1.

50. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said elevated regions comprise from 5 to 300 protrusions per square inch having a characteristic height of at least 0.2 mm relative to said depressed regions.

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51. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein at least 30% of the upper surface of said basesheet remains substantially free of hydrophobic matter and said web has a Rewet value of 0.6 g or less.

52. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein essentially all of said hydrophobic matter resides above the 50% material line of a characteristic cross-section of said web.

53. (Currently Amended) The absorbent web of ~~claims~~ claim 9 further comprising superabsorbent particles attached to said web.

54. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web is further characterized by a wet:dry tensile strength ratio of at least about 0.1 or greater and a Wet Springback Ratio of about 0.55 or greater.

55. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 further characterized by a Rewet value of about 0.65 g or less and a Normalized Rewet value of about 0.6 or less, said web further comprising about 20% or greater by weight high yield pulp fibers.

56. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said basesheet further comprises apertures and said lower surface of the basesheet further comprises wet-resilient protrusions adjacent said aperture.

57. (Previously Presented) A pad comprising a plurality of wet resilient wet-laid, textured, cellulosic tissue webs comprising hydrophilic papermaking fibers, said webs being joined together in a superposed relationship by adhesive means, said webs having a dry bulk of about 9 cubic centimeters per gram, a Wet Compressed Bulk of at least about 6 cubic centimeters per gram, said pad comprising a first outermost tissue web having an upper surface and a lower surface, the upper surface facing outward from said pad and having elevated and depressed regions and having hydrophobic matter selectively deposited on the elevated regions of said upper surface of the at least one outermost tissue web.

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58. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 wherein said tissue web is a through-dried tissue web.
59. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 58 wherein said tissue web is uncreped.
60. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 wherein the hydrophobic matter comprises a fibrous web.
61. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 wherein the hydrophobic matter comprises hydrophobic synthetic fibers.
62. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 61 wherein the hydrophobic matter comprises polyolefin fibers.
63. (Previously Presented) The pad of claims 60 or 61 wherein the hydrophobic matter is joined to the outermost tissue web by at least one of adhesives, thermal bonding, ultrasonic binding, electrostatic attraction, needling, entanglement, hydroentanglement or water-repellent binders.
64. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 wherein the hydrophobic matter comprises a substantially contiguous network of hydrophobic fibers having a plurality of macroscopic openings such that a portion of the depressed regions of the first outermost tissue web are aligned with openings in the network of hydrophobic fibers.
65. (Previously Presented) The absorbent web of claim 64 wherein said network of hydrophobic fibers comprises a plurality of macroscopic openings having a characteristic width of about 0.2 mm or greater.
66. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 further characterized by a Rewet value of about 0.65 g or less and a Normalized Rewet value of about 0.6 or less.

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67. (Previously Presented) The pad web of claim 57 wherein at least one of said tissue webs has an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.2 mm or greater and an In-Plane Permeability of at least 0.5×10^{-10} m.

68. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 wherein each web in the plurality of tissue webs has between about 5 and about 300 protrusions per square inch having a height relative to the plane of the web of about 0.2 mm or greater.

69. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 68 wherein the protrusions of each web in the plurality of tissue webs have a height relative to the plane of the web of from about 0.25 to about 0.6 mm.

70. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57, wherein the superficial basis weight of said hydrophobic matter on the first outermost tissue web is from about 1 to about 10 gsm and the first outermost tissue web has a basis weight of from about 10 to about 70 gsm.

71. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57, wherein the plurality of tissue webs have a basis weight from about 15 grams per square meter to about 70 grams per square meter per individual web.

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Previously Presented) A pad according to claim 57 useful for wiping a surface.

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Cancelled)

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77. (Cancelled)

78. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 wherein said hydrophobic matter comprises synthetic fibers fixedly attached to the upper surface of the outermost tissue web such that about 50% or less of the surface area of the outermost tissue web is covered with the synthetic fibers.

79. (Currently Amended) The pad of claim 57 further comprising a second outermost tissue web remote from the first outermost tissue web and comprising hydrophobic matter thereon.

80. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 wherein at least one of the plurality of tissue webs has an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.2 mm or less while dry and an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.3 mm or greater when wetted to a moisture content of 100%.

81. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 wherein having a wet:dry tensile ratio of at least 0.1.

82. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 wherein at least 30% of the upper surface of the first outermost tissue web remains substantially free of hydrophobic matter.

83. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 wherein essentially all of the hydrophobic matter on the first outermost tissue web resides above the 50% material line of a characteristic cross-section of the first outermost tissue web.

84. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 57 further comprising superabsorbent particles therein.

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85. (Previously Presented) A pad comprising a plurality of wet resilient wet-laid, textured, through-dried, cellulosic tissue webs comprising hydrophilic papermaking fibers, said webs being joined together in a superposed relationship by at least one of adhesives, sewn thread, fiber entanglement, and embossments, said webs comprising at least 20% high-yield fibers and a wet strength agent, and having a dry bulk of about 11 cubic centimeters per gram or greater and a Wet Compressed Bulk of at least about 6 cubic centimeters per gram, said pad comprising a first outermost tissue web having an upper surface and a lower surface, the upper surface facing outward from said pad and having elevated and depressed regions and having hydrophobic matter selectively deposited on the elevated regions of said upper surface of the at least one outermost tissue web.

86. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 85, wherein the webs of the plurality of tissue webs have a basis weight from about 15 grams per square meter to about 70 grams per square meter per individual web.

87. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 85, wherein the plurality of tissue webs has a wet:dry tensile ratio of at least 0.1.

88. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 85, wherein the plurality of tissue webs are joined one to another by adhesive means.

89. (Cancelled)

90. (Cancelled)

91. (Currently Amended) The pad of claim 85 or 89, further comprising a meltblown material applied to the surface of the first outermost tissue web.

92. (Cancelled)